GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:247
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is committed to the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, the details of projects based on atomic energy ; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of atomic energy in the country ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS A PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ST THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MOS IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) S.B. MOOKHERJEE :

(a)to(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.247 FOR ANSWER ON 6/8/03 BY SHRI J.S. BRAR REGARDING ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Some of the major projects/achievements are as follows:

(i) The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) a Public Sector Undertaking, is responsible for the design, construction and operation of nuclear power reactors. There are fourteen (14) nuclear power reactors with a total nuclear power capacity of 2720 MWe in operation and 8 reactors are under construction in the country.

(ii) The Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) and the Heavy Water Board (HWB) provide support to the atomic power programme.

(iii) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) provides research and development support to nuclear power programme, produces radioisotopes and provides facilities for research. The radioisotopes produced in the research reactors at Trombay and at the nuclear power plants and the cyclotron at Kolkata find wide applications in the fields of agriculture and food, medicine and healthcare, industry and research.

(iv) Amongst other activities, the Centre for Advance Technology (CAT) is engaged in the application of lasers in industries and health care and research.

(v) The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) is responsible for the processing of radioisotopes for supply to medical and industrial users across the country. Medical applications include radiopharmaceuticals, brachytherapy wires, radioimmunoassay kits and various other products and services.

(c) Some of the steps being taken to increase the production of atomic energy are the following:

(i) Eight nuclear power reactors at four sites are under construction. On completion of these projects, the nuclear power capacity in the country will be 6680 MWe. A total nuclear power capacity of 20000 MWe by the year 2020 has been envisaged.

(ii) A 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is planned for construction at Kalpakkam during the X Plan.

(iii) The utilisation of thorium reserves for electricity generation is the main long term objective of

the Department. The advanced heavy water reactor with a capacity of 300 MWe has been designed by BARC as a technology demonstration project to utilise thorium for electricity generation.